

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /163 W  
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P R 091910Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2029

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3343

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 4806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING AFTERNOON OCT 9

VIENNA FOR US MBFR DELEGATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP COMPLETED DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL

QUESTIONS BEGUN AT MORNING SESSION, GAVE FIRST READING TO DRAFT  
OPENING STATEMENTS OF GERMANY, ITALY, GREECE AND CANADA. US  
TABLED PRESS POLICY PAPER (SEE STATE 199227) FOR DISCUSSION AT  
OCTOBER 10 MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIAN CHAIRMAN (WILLOT) OPENED BY SEEKING CONFIRMATION OF  
GROUP'S VIEWS OF ORGANIZATIONAL POINTS TOUCHED ON IN MORNING  
DISCUSSION:

A. INTERPRETERS. GROUP AGREED THAT AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES  
WOULD SUPPLY INTERPRETERS, USING AUSTRIAN NATIONALS TO THE EXTENT  
POSSIBLE AND NATIONALS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WHEN AUSTRIANS  
NOT AVAILABLE.

B. CHAIRMANSHIP. BELGIAN REP NOTED ALTERNATIVES OF RESUMING  
SECRET

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ROTATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF PLENARIES WHERE INITIAL TALKS LEFT OFF  
OR OF STARTING ANEW BY DRAWING LOTS. US REP SAID IT WOULD BE  
ADVANTAGEOUS TO WEST TO CONTINUE ROTATION AND THUS HAVE FRG PRESIDE  
AT FIRST PLENARY, IF EAST WOULD AGREE. GROUP AGREED TO HAVE

BELGIANS APPROACH POLES WITH PROPOSAL TO BEGIN WITH FRG.

C. AUSTRIAN SPEECH AND RECEPTION. BELGIAN REP ASKED IF HE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AUSTRIANS TO HOLD RECEPTION. US AND UK REPS SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRIAN SUGGESTION SHOULD BE WELCOMED. CANADIAN REP ASKED WHAT WESTERN REACTION SHOULD BE IF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WISHED TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE. US REP POINTED OUT THAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED. AT TIME WHEN INITIAL TALKS OPENED ALLIES WERE CONCERNED LEST AUSTRIANS SEEK SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION AND THUS PLAY INTO HANDS OF SOVIETS. AUSTRIAN ACTIVITY ON THAT ACCOUNT IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM AND THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO BE UNGRACIOUS. BELGIAN, ITALIAN, FRG, UK AND NORWEGIAN REPS ALL SUPPORTED IDEA WITH UK ADDING SUGGESTION THAT PARTICIPANTS TAKE INITIATIVE TO INVITE AUSTRIAN PM TO SPEAK. BELGIANS WILL CONSULT POLES ABOUT IDEA.

D. FIRST PLENARY. GROUP ACCEPTED US REP'S SUGGESTION THAT MEETING BE AT 11 A.M. RATHER THAN IN AFTERNOON IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PRESS COVERAGE.

2. GROUP TOOK UP OPENING STATEMENTS; IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT AHG APPROVAL WAS PROVISIONAL AND TEXTS COULD BE DISCUSSED AGAIN IF MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE RATHER THAN STYLISTIC ISSUES REQUIRED IT.

A. IN GERMAN STATEMENT (USNATO 4740) US REP NOTED USE OF TERM "BALANCE" IN PARA 3 AND SUGGESTED GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD AVOID THAT WORD LEST IT IMPLY WESTERN SATISFACTION WITH STATUS QUO AND THUS SEEM TO INVITE EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR EQUAL REDUCTIONS. FRG REP ACCEPTED POINT.

B. ON ITALIAN STATEMENT, US REP NOTED USE OF "EQUILIBRIUM," AND SUGGESTED AN AMENDMENT TO GIVE SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS IN COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION. (AMENDED TEXT SEPTCL.)

C. ON GREEK DRAFT UK REP SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO REFER TO UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR "ALL MEMBERS OF THE TWO ALLIANCES." GREEK REP EXPLAINED THAT THE WORDING WAS CHOSEN FOR IMPACT ON GREEK PUBLIC OPINION BUT ACCEPTED AD REF CHANGE TO "ALL EUROPE." (TEXT SEPTCL.)

3. US REP CIRCULATED TEXT OF PAPER ON PRESS TACTICS FOR  
SECRET

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CONSIDERATION BY GROUP AT OCTOBER 10 MEETING.

RUMSFELD

SECRET

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VIENNA  
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